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News: 630.834-8244

General Information: 630.834-8244

E-mail:

Advertising Department: ads1@rvpublishing.com
News Department: Independent@rvpublishing.com
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Administration:

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News Coordinator

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Addison Trail Music Department Head and Band Director Mark Corey (left) directs the Addison Trail Jazz Band during a performance. Corey has been named as this year's recipient of the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) Distinguished Service Award.

Addison Trail music director to receive ILMEA Distinguished Service Award

Addison Trail Music Department Head and Band Director Mark Corey has been named as this year's recipient of the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) Distinguished Service Award.

Corey was nominated by Brayer Teague, ILMEA Immediate Past President and Fine Arts Department Chair at Downers Grove North, for his years of service to the ILMEA. Corey has served the association as a Band Representative, District President and most recently as State President from 2015 to 2017. Corey has been with the Addison Trail Music Department since 1995 and has been the school's Music Department Head and Band Director since 2016.

The nomination process involved providing a summary of achievements, contributions and service, as well as three to five letters of support. Winners are selected by the Awards Committee and the ILMEA Board of



Submitted by Addison Trail Music Department



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured here, at the "Bean" in downtown Chicago, are Addison Trail students in world language teacher Judie Vittriti-Lynch's Advanced Placement (AP) Italian class. They were recently featured in the publication of "Ero Noi" Chicago's Italian American

SPORTS

JAN. 23, 2020 • 1

Third-quarter surge fuels Warriors' victory over Rams

Full-court defensive pressure helps Willowbrook outscore Glenbard East 20-6 in third period

The Willowbrook girls basketball team beat nearby rival Glenbard East 53-46 in Friday's non-conference contest in Villa Park.

The Warriors took control of the game in the third quarter, when their pressure defense forced the Rams to commit several turnovers. Glenbard East held a 27-23 lead at halftime. By the end of the third quarter, Willowbrook owned a 43-33 advantage.

The Rams cut the Warriors' lead to as few as six points during the final quarter.

Willowbrook improved its over-

all record to 13-7 with Friday's win. Glenbard East's overall record dropped to 13-11.

"We played really good defense in the second half," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after Friday's game. "The press worked. At half-time we decided we needed to keep them from crossing half court. The girls came out and did that."

Glenbard East did not make any field goals during the first seven minutes of the third period. The Warriors took a 30-29 lead when senior K'Allyha Herron scored a basket with

about six minutes left in the period. Junior Stephanie Dasbach scored Willowbrook's next five points to give her team a 35-29 lead.

Baskets by senior Khaylah Richey and junior Kaylan Monday increased the lead to 39-29. Richey added a basket and a pair of free throws to boost the Warriors' lead to 43-29 with about one minute left in the period.

"They [the Warriors] just picked up the pressure in the third quarter, and they forced a lot of turnovers," said Glenbard East coach Nicole Miller after Friday's game.

Glenbard East junior Lauren Huber then scored her team's only two field goals of the third period. Huber's driving basket at the third-quarter buzzer cut the Warriors' lead to 43-33 with eight minutes to play.

Huber and junior Emily Ryan delivered baskets for the Rams early in the fourth quarter to drop the Warriors' lead to 43-37. Junior Abbey Spada of the Warriors provided a key basket to raise her team's lead to eight points.

Huber scored another basket to bring the lead down to six points, but junior Annemarie Knudtson made two free throws with 4:55 to play to give Willowbrook a 47-39 lead. Herron's basket after a steal by Dasbach moved the lead to 49-39.

Huber, who connected on a 3-point shot with about 20 seconds to play to account for the game's final points, led all scorers with 25 points. Huber also recorded nine rebounds. Ryan scored 10 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Junior Aubrey Wendorf contributed six points.

Dasbach and Herron both provided 14 points for Willowbrook. Dasbach had 10 rebounds, while Herron snared seven rebounds. Richey provided 10 points and 10 rebounds. She scored eight of her 10 points during the decisive third quarter. Knudtson scored nine points. Spada added four points.

Willowbrook split a pair of West Suburban Gold Conference games last week. The Warriors began the week with a 35-28 win at Hinsdale South on Jan. 14. Dasbach poured in 19 points and made 16 rebounds for Willowbrook, which held a 16-13 lead at halftime and a 26-21 edge after three quarters. Herron provided eight points and 10 rebounds.

The Warriors fell to 13-8 overall and 7-2 in the conference following Saturday's 60-59 loss at Leyden. Dasbach scored a team-leading 19 points. Herron added 12 points.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes this Saturday's conference showdown at Proviso East. The Pirates beat the Warriors in the teams' first meeting of the season.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Public

Willowbrook's girls basketball team earned a 53-46 win over Glenbard East in Friday's contest between neighborhood rivals in Villa Park. Junior Stephanie Dasbach (No. 30) scored 14 points and made 10 rebounds for the Warriors. Senior K'Allyha Herron (No. 15) provided 14 points and seven rebounds, while senior Khaylah Richey (No. 14) contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds. Richey scored eight points during the third quarter, when Willowbrook outscored the Rams 20-6. One day after beating Glenbard East, the Warriors lost 60-59 West Suburban Gold Conference battle at Leyden. Saturday's loss left Willowbrook with an overall record of 13-8, and a conference mark of 7-2.



Addison Trail boys basketball team continues to compete in close games

Carlson, Roszkiewicz leading the way for Blazers

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

While the Addison Trail boys basketball team doesn't have the wins to show for it, it continues to battle teams down to the wire.

In recent action, the Blazers dropped a 47-44 non-conference decision to Mains East and lost 68-66 to West Suburban Conference Gold Division entrant Proviso East. Addison Trail also lost a WSC Gold game to Downers Grove South 56-31.

"We haven't come out on the good side of any of them," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons, whose team was 3-15 through late last week. "Downers Grove South got us pretty good, but outside of that game we find ourselves in every game. We just can't find a way to get over the hump."

"When you are not having success, it would be easy for kids to check out and not be as invested. Up until that Downers Grove South game, the kids have come to play every day and practices have been good. You wouldn't know what our record is and that's a testament to the kids. They want to get better, and as coaches we have to find ways to get these allusive wins."

Addison Trail continues to be led offensively by the likes of A.J. Carlson and Robert Roszkiewicz. Carlson is averaging 17 points a game, while Roszkiewicz, a 6-7 junior, is averaging 15 points.

"They account for a big part of our offense," said Lyons. "What has been very encouraging is teams as focusing in on them and we still find ways to get the ball to them and they do things well."

Lyons said one key remains finding additional scoring options.

"One thing we have stressed since Christmas is finding that consistent third score each night. That could really go a long way in getting us over the hump. And it doesn't necessarily have to be the same guy."

Lyons labeled the team's defensive success as up and down.

"I don't think we are doing a bad job on defense," he said. "We are doing some good things. We haven't settled into playing one defensive consistently. Giving up 68 points to Proviso East, that's a lot of points to give up. They had about 14 points on breakaways that were uncontested."

"We had a lot of turnovers. Overall, our defense does a good job of keeping us in games, but when you look at things one night it might be free throws hurting us, or shot selection or turnovers. We haven't been able to get over that hump yet."

Another positive has been the ability of younger players to contribute this season, Lyons noted.

"Our underclassmen are getting a lot of experience," he said. "Sammy Renc has played a ton. He's getting comfortable out there as a sophomore on varsity. He has started pretty much every game. Jacob Daniels is another sophomore who had a couple of good games recently."

"Those are two younger guys who are playing more. We may not see the full payoff until next year, but they are getting used to the varsity speed and that's encouraging."

Addison Trail returns to action Friday against Hinsdale South in a WSC Gold game.

"We've had a nice little window here to work on things at practice," said Lyons. "We have a slew of games coming up here. Hinsdale South is at the top of the league. It's definitely not going to get easier from a schedule standpoint."

Willowbrook girls bowling team continues to improve

Warriors finish busy week with a third-place finish at Fenton's 20-team invite

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team continues to make progress.

Although the Warriors lost a 3,045 to 2,994 West Suburban Conference match to Downers Grove South on Jan. 9, senior Ashley DeLeon provided plenty of highlights. DeLeon shot a personal-best high series of 608 in the meet. She also bowled the Warriors' best game of the competition with a 242.

DeLeon and senior Makaylah Jones are leading the way for coach Kevin Allen's squad.

At the Plainfield South Invitational, held before the new year, Willowbrook finished 20th in a 44-team field. Jones had Willowbrook's high game of the day with a 237.

Sophomore Taylor Balslew also provided a recent highlight when she rolled a 613 series during a competition. That series included games of 233, 193 and 187.

In addition to her performance on the lanes, Allen has been pleased with DeLeon's leadership abilities, along with those of senior Victoria Salazar.

"Ashley and Victoria have really stepped up and are showing great leadership qualities," he said. "The scores and positive attitude have been great, and the rest of the girls have been feeding off that energy."

Allen noted the team has been hard at work at two main concepts in recent weeks.

"We are working on making high-quality shots on the first ball by keeping the ball in play," he explained. "When we do that, we will either get strikes or leave makeable spares. The second thing we are working hard at is getting better at our spare game. We have been practicing spare shooting and the results are starting to show."

Willowbrook began a busy week of competition with a home meet against Glenbard East on Jan. 13. The visiting Rams outscored the Warriors 3,063 to 2,953 at Stardust Bowl in Addison. Jones led Willowbrook with a three-game series score of 535 that included game scores of 181, 172 and 182.

One day later, the Warriors defeated Hinsdale Central 2,784 to 2,321 in a West Suburban Conference dual meet. On Jan. 16, Willowbrook lost a conference meet against York. The Dukes outscored the Warriors 3,376 to 3,087.

Willowbrook placed fourth out of nine teams at Friday's Hinsdale South Invitational. Jones claimed second place in the event's individual standings.

On Saturday, Willowbrook earned a third-place finish at Fenton's 20-team Fred Green Classic at Wood Dale Bowl. Jones bowled a six-game total of 1,234, good for third among all individuals. Balslew contributed a high game of 246, which propelled her to a three-game series score of 620.

Willowbrook will open the



CHRIS FOX PHOTO/ SUBMITTED TEAM PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls bowling team faced Glenbard East in last week's dual meet at the Warriors' home venue—Stardust Bowl in Addison. The visiting Rams outscored Willowbrook 3,063 to 2,953 in the Jan. 13 competition. Six bowlers from each team bowled three games in the meet. Senior Makaylah Jones (pictured) fired Willowbrook's best three-game series. She rolled a 535 series with game scores of 181, 172 and 182. Senior Ashley DeLeon rolled a 530 series that included a pair of 203 scores. She rolled a 203 in her first game, a 124 in her second game and another 203 in her third game. Sophomore Megan Beausoleil added a 508 series for Willowbrook. Seniors Victoria Salazar and Maddie Brown delivered series scores of 482 and 463, respectively. Sophomore Molly Williams added a series score of 435. The Warriors completed a busy week with Saturday's third-place finish at Fenton's 20-team Fred Green Classic. Pictured (left to right) on Saturday are (front row) Brown, Salazar and freshman Christina Pettinger; (back row) Jones, sophomore Taylor Balslew, Williams, Beausoleil and DeLeon. Willowbrook will both compete in the upcoming IHSA Metea Valley Regional at Fox Bowl in Wheaton. The 12-team regional takes place on Feb. 8.

post-season at the Metea Valley Regional, which will be held at Fox Bowl in Wheaton on Feb. 8. The

Warriors hope to advance to the Hinsdale South Sectional, which will take place at Bowlero Lanes in

Woodridge on Feb. 15. Chris Fox contributed to this report.

Fenton boys basketball team splits pair of conference games

King hits for 19 in win against Elgin-Larkin

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

As a whole, the Fenton boys basketball team's road trip last week was a positive.

Fenton first headed to Elgin to face Larkin, where it walked away with a 52-46 Upstate Eight Conference victory.

"We really got the ball inside against them," Fenton coach Chaz Taft said. "We did a good job getting the ball inside to Diamond (King)."

King led Fenton with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Taft noted King shot 9-for-10 from the field. "He was solid with the inside attack, which was good to see."

Andre Reed added three 3-pointers in the game.

"For sure, it was good to get a win on the road," said Taft.

Fenton then dropped a five-point decision (43-38) to Glenbard South in overtime in Glen Ellyn in another UEC contest.

"It was pretty much back and forth," said Taft. "It was a low-scoring game. Shots were not falling. I wouldn't be surprised if both teams shot under 30 percent."

Fenton led 14-10 at halftime. The Bison had a chance to win the game in regulation, but missed the front end of a 1-and-1 situation at the foul line with 2.7 seconds to play.

The teams traded baskets early in overtime, before a Fenton turnover allowed Glenbard South to take the lead.

"We had our chances to win that game in regulation," said Taft. "Number-one, we have to take care of the ball, and number-two, is free throws. Free throws have been our crutch all year."

Taft said Fenton as a team is in the 50s percentage-wise on made free throws. "We focus all the time on free throws," he said. "Now, it's a matter of getting up there and making them. We have to get better. The good thing is we still have 13 games left plus the playoffs to get it turned around."

King led Fenton with 16 points against Glenbard South.

Fenton was 11-8 overall and 5-4 in UEC action after the road split. The Bison played at Elgin earlier in the week and will have a rematch against Glenbard East at home tonight (7 p.m.) before facing Guerin Prep at home Saturday (6 p.m. tip).

"It's a busy week with a short turnaround," said Taft. "Extra attention to detail will be key, especially now the second time around in the league. We lost to Glenbard East by one in the first meeting and it was free throws, again. I think we shot about 47 percent."

Taft loves the overall progress the Bison program is making. He noted

the freshman A team is 11-6, while the freshman B team has a 10-5 mark. The sophomore team is 9-8.

"Every level of the program is on

the winning side of it, which is good for us," he said. "I can't remember the last time that across the board every level from freshman to varsity had a

winning record. We're trying to get that at the end of the season, and then you start building something from there."

Fenton girls basketball team focusing on defense

Bison to play second-ranked state teams in Class 3A and 1A in four-day stretch

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton girls basketball team has defense on its mind as the calendar inches closer to the state playoffs.

"We have changed up our defense and are using each game until the state tournament as an opportunity to improve on the defensive side," said Fenton coach Dave Mello. "Despite the results, the girls are doing what we are teaching them when it comes to defense."

"It's fun to see them remember what was taught and carry it over to the game. A strength is their ability to carry what we practice over to games, not only on the defensive side of the ball, but also when it comes to some individual offensive skills."

Mello noted improvement is being seen individually up and down the roster.

"As a team, each girl has improved all their basketball skills," he said. "The results may not show that each girl is improving, however as coaches we see the day-to-day im-

provement. If we based everything off the results, it wouldn't look good, however we are looking for each girl to improve daily and we are seeing that."

Mello stressed statistics tell far from the whole story on both sides of the ball.

"Offensively, again, judging by the scoring, it doesn't look like there is any progress," he said. "However, we had individual meetings (last week) and saw the girls improve what we were asking of them. In terms of defensive progress, basing off results, it doesn't look good. However, when we watch the film we see them progressing to what we need them to do. The entire season is a work in progress."

In recent action, Fenton lost 53-44 in Upstate Eight Conference action and dropped a 63-24 UEC game to Glenbard South. The Glenbard South result put Fenton at 7-13 overall and 1-10 in UEC play.

"We can really continue to improve our collective basketball IQ," Mello

noted. "There are a lot of moments that come up where our inexperience really shows. The more the girls play and the higher level of competition the girls face, that will only help to improve our basketball IQ."

Individually, junior Madison Spencer has been a 3-point threat for the Bison of late.

"Madison has really found her shot from the 3-point line," said Mello. "She has been looking to shoot a lot more and the results have been positive."

Junior Lisette Rodriguez also has provided a spark. "Lisette has been very active at the point of our defense and has been causing problems for the other team," Mello pointed out. "On offense, her passing from the post allows our shooters to get open looks."

Mello said preparations are under way for the state playoffs.

"We are looking to use each game and practice to prepare for the state

See FENTON, Page 24

Warriors lose heartbreaker to Hinsdale South

Buzzer-beating shot lifts Hornets to 51-50 victory

The Willowbrook boys basketball team has suffered a few last-second losses this season. The Warriors endured one of their toughest defeats during last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game against Hinsdale South.

The visiting Hornets scored a basket as time expired to beat Willowbrook 51-50 on Jan. 14 in Villa Park. The loss sent the Warriors to 6-12 overall and 1-3 in conference play.

"It's happened quite a few times," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins, referring to his team's last-second losses this season. The Warriors lost a pair of last-second decisions at Hinsdale Central's holiday tournament in late December. The Warriors also won a last-second thriller at that tournament, when senior Everett Stubblefield drained a buzzer-beating shot from behind the half-court line to beat Hinsdale Central in overtime.

"We had ample opportunities," added Perkins after last week's loss to the Hornets. "We missed a couple key free throws down the stretch. It's a game we could have won. We can beat anybody, but we can also lose to anybody."

Willowbrook rebounded from last week's loss to the Hornets by beating Downers Grove South 67-57 in Friday's conference game in Downers Grove. The win over the Mustangs pushed Willowbrook's conference record to 2-3. The Warriors then fell to 7-13 overall following Saturday's 67-55 loss to Palatine at Lake Zurich's Martin Luther King Tournament.

Willowbrook and Hinsdale South were tied at 35-35 through three quarters of last week's game. The Hornets sank a 3-point shot on the opening possession of the final quarter. They added two more baskets to

finish off a 7-0 run that produced a 42-35 lead and led to a Willowbrook time out with 6:35 to play.

Senior Sam Tumilty scored the Warriors' first points of the fourth quarter; his basket cut the Hornets' lead to 42-37. Stubblefield then connected on a 3-point shot to reduce Hinsdale South's lead to 42-40. Stubblefield's next score cut the Hornets' lead to 44-42. Hinsdale South made a shot from 3-point range to take a 47-42 lead. A basket from Tumilty and a free throw from Stubblefield dropped the Hornets' lead to 47-45 with about 2:20 to play.

Stubblefield gave the Warriors' their first lead of the quarter when he drained a 3-point shot to give his team a 48-47 lead with about 2:07 remaining. Stubblefield's driving layup after a steal boosted Willowbrook's lead to 50-47 with 1:40 to play.

The Hornets, who beat the War-

riors 65-54 in the teams' first conference meeting of the season in December, scored an inside basket with about 15 seconds left on the clock. Willowbrook missed a one-and-one free throw with 6.9 seconds left. The Hornets grabbed the rebound and called a time out with 5.9 seconds on the clock.

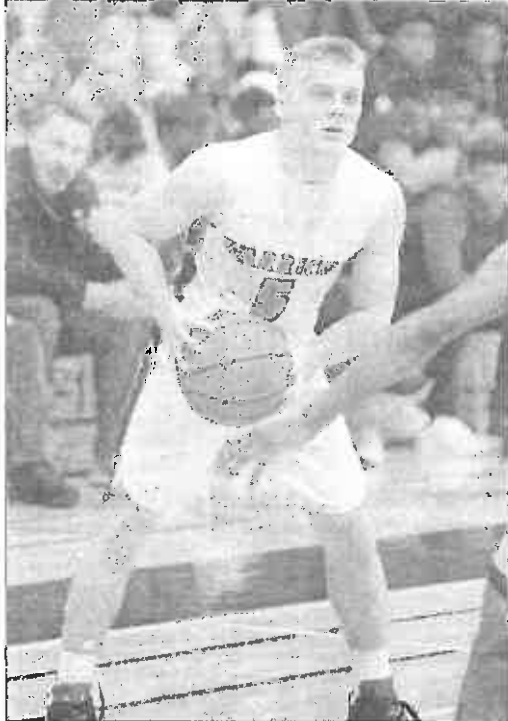
After the time out, Hinsdale South inbounded the ball and drove the length of the court. One Hornet player made an inside shot, which Willowbrook sophomore Sean Paige deflected off the backboard. Another Hinsdale South player made the rebound and made the game-winning shot as time expired. Hinsdale South's fans poured onto the court to celebrate the Hornets' victory.

Stubblefield, who made six shots from 3-point range, led all scorers with 25 points. Tumilty, who made a pair of 3-point shots, added 14 points.

Willowbrook outscored Downers Grove South 23-13 in the second quarter of Friday's game to build a halftime lead of 39-30. Stubblefield and Tumilty led the Warriors' score attack with 16 and 15 points, respectively. Senior Deandre Holliday, made a pair of 3-pointers, provided 10 points. Paige and sophomore C Baker both scored eight points.

Tumilty scored a team-leading points in Saturday's loss to Palatine. He made six baskets, including a pair of 3-point shots, and connected on five of his free-throw attempts. Stubblefield, who sank all four of his free throws, contributed 16 points. Paige and senior Isaac Gaines both scored six points.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes conference home games against Proviso East and Leyden. Willowbrook will battle Leyden Friday.



Willowbrook's boys basketball team lost 51-50 to Hinsdale South in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors led the Hornets 50-49 with 5.9 seconds to play. Hinsdale South inbounded the ball, drove down the court and launched a shot in the closing seconds. Willowbrook sophomore Sean Paige blocked the shot off the backboard. The Hornets recovered the ball and made the game-winning shot as time expired. Senior Everett Stubblefield (No. 3) led Willowbrook's offense with 25 points. Senior Sam Tumilty (No. 5) contributed 14 points. Also pictured is senior Isaac Gaines (No. 2), who is shown while scoring a layup during the third quarter. The Warriors rebounded from their loss to Hinsdale South to earn a 67-57 conference victory at Downers Grove South on Friday. That win gave Willowbrook a conference record of 2-3. The Warriors' overall record dropped to 7-13 after Saturday's 67-55 loss to Palatine.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Fenton

(Continued from page 23)

tournament," he said. "We have very challenging schedule the remainder of the way. I don't know many teams that will play the No. 1 Class 3A team in the state in Monticello and the No. 2 Class 1A team in state in Lanark Eastland."

"We get the great opportunity to play those two teams in a four-span. Those two games will help immensely as we prepare for regionals."

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District 88 names new head football coach at Addison Trail

A new head coach will lead the Addison Trail Football Team beginning Aug. 3, but it will be a familiar face to the school and community. At its Jan. 13th meeting, the District 88 Board of Education approved the administration's recommendation to name Chris Bazant as the new head football coach for the Blazers. Bazant will succeed Paul Parpet Jr. in that position, who stepped down in November after 10 years at the helm and 26 years with the program. Addison Trail thanked Parpet Jr. for his years of service

and dedication to the team. "Football builds values, and I want to develop character students-athletes who will be leaders in the classroom and on the field," Bazant said. "It's about building relationships. My philosophy is work hard, do things the right way and be a good person. Winning is the goal, but it's not the focus. Success is a byproduct of following the process and implementing those other steps." Football has been part of Bazant's life since he joined the sport

in sixth grade. He was a linebacker at Victor J. Andrew High School and at North Central College. He has 14 years of coaching experience in a variety of positions at York and Mattoon High Schools as well as Addison Trail, where he has served as a varsity assistant coach since 2012. "Football is one of the most important things in my life," he added. "It teaches you about preparation, work ethic, teamwork and how to overcome adversity and persevere over challenges."

At North Central College, Bazant earned his bachelor's degree in social science/ social studies, with a minor in education. He then attended the University of St. Francis where he received his Master's degree in teaching and learning with endorsements in ESL and psychology. He and his wife Mallory live in Lockport with their three daughters.

Having taught at AT since 2012, Bazant has worked with an array of students. He currently teaches Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level psychology and said his time in the classroom is what inspired him to become head coach of the football team.

"Addison Trail truly is a special place," he said. "We have great kids. I believe in them, and that's why I took this position. I'm really looking forward to working with them and getting started."

Athletic Director Matt Thompson said he's excited to have Bazant step into this new role.

"Bazant's experience as a football player and as a coach, along with the relationships and level of trust he has developed with our stu-



Chris Bazant
Addison Trail Head Football Coach

dents, will be an asset to the team," he said. "We know he will continue the pride, tradition and excellence of Addison Trail athletics."

AT hosts annual Young Alumni Day

On Jan. 10, Addison Trail hosted its annual Young Alumni Day, when alumni from the last seven years are invited back to the school.

About 120 alumni attended the event, which involved touring the

school and visiting with friends and former teachers, coaches and staff members.

"Young Alumni Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to stay in touch with our recent graduates and keep them connected with

their alma mater," said Principal Michael Bolden. "It's amazing to see them as young adults and hear about their successes. This event truly embodies our motto of Blazer Pride and 'Once a Blazer, Always a Blazer.'"



[Top left photo]: AT Principal Michael Bolden (center) visits with alumni Adan Montalvo and Lizbeth Iruena of the class of 2019 during the school's Young Alumni Day on Jan. 10. [Top right photo]: AT Guidance Department Administrative Assistant Karen Grady (third from left) catches up with alumnae Olympia (left) Samantha Polescha, Nicole Branklin, Ariana Alvidrez, Sabrina Cucinella and Kristina Bouzarek Corey, all from the class of 2019. [Bottom left photo]: AT Music Department Head and Band Director Ark Corey (center) shares a laugh with alumni Edward Ficarra (left) and Connor White, both from the class of 2019. [Bottom right photo]: AT art teacher Tim Hockensmith (third from left) chats with alumni (from left) Christopher Marhut (class of '13), Jason Nuehring (class of '17) and Amanda Colon (class of '19).

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

College to screen documentary or annual MLK presentation

The Area: Odyssey of a Chicago Neighborhood to be shown Feb. 19

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Elmhurst College will screen the documentary "The Area," this year's Martin Luther King Jr. intercultural presentation. The screening of "The Area" begins at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the Schaible Science Center, Illinois Hall on the campus of Elmhurst College.

"The Area" follows the five-year odyssey of a South Side Chicago neighborhood where more than 400 African-American families are being displaced by a multi-billion dollar

freight company. The film tells the stories of homeowner-turned-activist Deborah Payne, who vows to be "the last house standing," and the Row Row Boys, teen friends who must start a new life across gang lines.

A panel discussion with Payne, who also is a producer on the film, and co-producer Brian Ashby will follow the screening. Learn more about the film at theareafilm.com.

"The Area" is a production of Scrapers Film Group. It is a 2017 IFF Documentary Labs awardee and

is supported by the Graham Foundation, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. The film was also a participant in the Tribeca Film Institute/Kartemquin Films Tribeca Hacks program.

Admission is \$10 for the general public and free for Elmhurst College students, faculty, staff and alumni. Tickets are available by visiting elmhurst.edu/cultural. For more information, call (630) 617-5186.

County invites residents to Route 83 community workshops

Input sought on Route 83 Corridor Plan

Residents are invited to two community workshops to provide input and hear about key recommendations community planners will make regarding the DuPage County Route 83 Corridor Plan.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 6-8 p.m. at the Villa Park Library, 305 Ard-

more Ave.

DuPage County is working to create a community-driven, action-oriented master plan that cohesively addresses issues and opportunities as they relate to land use and transportation along Route 83 in DuPage County.

To learn more about the plan, please visit planroute83.org.

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Old (Continued from page 8)

Former newspaper manager pleads guilty in theft case

Jensen ordered to pay \$274,000, serve probation

ge shouldn't have a beard because it could be gray." Likewise, I've had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of people who were born long ago but have managed to keep a youthful outlook on life. Their attitude defied their age and they were anything but old. Quite contrary.

Growing old happens gradually over time. Becoming old is almost like turning a corner. One day a person sees himself as young, the next they make a quick claim to old.

It's perplexing. To not long to be young at heart and mind. To see yourself by the things you can't do, thus focusing and building upon ones you can. To not care that paths are no longer open to you, embrace the idea of old because the young seems too much effort. Everyone will grow old, but growing old is a choice — as is gaining young at heart. Sometimes, I don't think we have the choice. We live our days on autopilot and don't realize we are in control. But control is infinitely available to each of us. The choice is ours and ours alone. I make one you won't regret. Don't let a number define you. And go ahead, buy that bikini or gown that flatters. And keep it young — young at heart, no matter what number defines "age."

Cynthia R. Jensen, 56, of Kingston, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a felony theft charge in Walworth County Circuit Court on Jan. 10.



Cynthia Jensen

The former business manager of Rock Valley Publishing, the Villa Park Review and the Independent Newspapers, made a \$250,000 restitution payment at the court hearing and pleaded guilty to a class H felony charge that carries a maximum penalty of six years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

In a courtroom on Jan. 10, Jensen pleaded guilty to the class H felony theft charge and her attorney made a

\$250,000 restitution payment on her behalf.

Circuit Court Judge Phillip Koss sentenced Jensen to make an additional \$24,575.58 in restitution payments within six months and serve two years of probation on the class H felony under a plea agreement.

Several other charges she faced were dismissed, but read into the record.

Jensen was charged Sept. 25, 2018, with seven counts of identity theft for financial gain and two counts of theft in a business setting of more than \$10,000, all as a party to a crime.

According to the criminal complaint, Jensen, an Illinois licensed CPA and former business manager of Rock Valley Publishing, Southern Lakes Newspapers and Southern Lakes Pub-

lishing, made unauthorized transactions from the company to herself and her husband between May 2015 and early 2018.

Company records show that Jensen transferred \$871,560 in company funds into her personal accounts from May 11, 2015, until Feb. 9, 2018, without authorization.

Jensen opened a slot machine video gaming business called CJ's Gaming in DeKalb, Illinois, close to the same time the theft started.

While employed as business manager for the publishing firm, Jensen made unauthorized ACH transfers from the company into her personal accounts and issued checks to herself and her husband without authorization by forging a signature of a company owner, according to the criminal com-

plaint. Jensen transferred funds to her personal account and made payments back to the company from CJ's Gaming in an attempt to pay back the stolen funds.

In January of 2018, bank managers noticed checks issued to Jensen without matching signatures. An audit at the time revealed that the defendant owed the company \$273,991.57 of the \$871,560 in unauthorized transfers. A company demand for Jensen to immediately return the funds was unsuccessful, according to company officials.

In July 2018, the company owners filed a police report at the City of DeKalb Police Department.

Rock Valley Publishing publishes this newspaper and several other weekly newspapers in DuPage County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Blazettes' dance clinic coming Jan. 31

Pictured are participants performing at a previous Winter Dance Clinic hosted by the Addison Trail Blazettes. This year's event will take place on Jan. 31.

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